

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 240370
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 /014 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR:DGOOTT:RLR

APPROVED BY:EUR:DGOOTT

-----086680 061455Z /43

R 060405Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

XMT AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240370

ATTENTION LABOR ATTACHES

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 9265 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
USMISSION GENEVA SEP 27.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 09265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: FRG REPORT ON EAST-WEST LABOR EXCHANGES

REF: (A) NATO 4194, 76, (B) STATE 183909, 76 (ALL NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAPER ON FRG-WARSAW PACT TRADE
UNION EXCHANGES WHICH FRG REP CIRCULATED AT SEPTEMBER 27
POLADS MEETING.

2. BEGIN TEXT FRG PAPER.
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GERMAN TRADE UNIONS AND THE WORKERS'
ORGANIZATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE.

1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND THE
EASTERN-EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS GOES BACK TO THE YEAR 1969.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 240370

AT THAT TIME, THE FEDERAL CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATION OF
GERMAN TRADE UNIONS (DGB) DECIDED TO ESTABLISH INFORMATION
CONTACTS WITH THE EASTERN-EUROPEAN UNIONS. AFTER A STEEP
RISE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEVENTIES, THE NUMBER OF
MEETINGS CONSIDERABLY DECLINED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.
THIS IS EXPLAINED BY THE GERMAN UNIONS BY THE FACT THAT
THE ACCUMULATED DEMAND FOR SUCH CONTACT IS NOW SATURATED

AND THAT THE INITIAL EUPHORIA HAS GIVEN WAY TO BUSINESS-LIKE NORMALIZATION.

2. TRADE UNION CONTACTS TAKE PLACE AT VARIOUS LEVELS:

--EXCHANGES OF TOP-LEVEL DELEGATIONS OF THE DGB AND SOME MEMBER UNIONS EVERY YEAR OR EVERY TWO YEARS,

--EXCHANGES OF SPECIALIZED DELEGATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, SOCIAL INSURANCE, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, HUMANIZATION OF THE WORKING WORLD ETC.,

--INFORMATION VISITS BY TRADE UNION JOURNALISTS.

STRICT RECIPROCITY IS BEING OBSERVED ON THE GERMAN SIDE. THERE IS NO VISIT WITHOUT A RETURN VISIT.

3. THESE EXCHANGES HAVE DEVELOPED INDEPENDENTLY OF HELSINKI. AS FAR AS THE COUNTRIES OF THE EASTERN BLOCK ARE CONCERNED, THEY ARE OF EMINENTLY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. ADMINISTRATIVE OR MATERIAL DIFFICULTIES HAVE NEVER BEEN AN OBSTACLE FOR THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN ORGANIZING SUCH VISITS. THEY HAVE INVARIABLY FOLLOWED THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ENTER INTO CLOSE CONTACTS WITH THE GERMAN UNIONS IN ORDER TO GET THEM TO ADOPT A PRO-COMMUNIST LINE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 240370

4. THE GERMAN UNIONS, ON THE OTHER HAND, VIEW THESE EXCHANGES IN A SOBER AND EVEN RESERVED LIGHT. THEY WERE AWARE FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE EASTERN BLOCK CAN NEVER BE REAL PARTNERS BUT THAT THEY HAVE OTHER TASKS IN A DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEM AND PURSUE DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL AIMS. FOR THIS REASON, THE GERMAN TRADE UNIONS DO NOT PLAN AN EXTENSION OF THE EXCHANGES. THEY WISH TO KEEP THEM LIMITED AND UNDER CONTROL. THE MEANS USED TO ENSURE THIS ARE THE STRICT APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY AND THE LIMITATION TO BILATERAL CONTACTS.

5. THE DGB REJECTS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FREE TRADE UNIONS (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS, EUROPEAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION) AND COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS (WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS). IT REGARDS ESPECIALLY MULTILATERAL CONTACTS AS INVOLVING THE DANGER THAT THE FREE UNIONS MAY BE ABUSED AND UNDERMINED BY THE COMMUNISTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF A COMMUNIST-INSPIRED "UNITY OF ACTION OF THE WORKING CLASS".

6. IN SPITE OF ALL THE REALISM WITH WHICH THE GERMAN
UNIONS VIEW THE EXCHANGES WITH EASTERN EUROPE, THEY
BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE THEIR VALUE WHICH CAN, HOWEVER,
ONLY BECOME FULLY EFFECTIVE BY A PERMANENT DIALOGUE OF
LONG DURATION.

7. THE CONTACTS WITH THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES VARY IN
INTENSITY. RELATIONS ARE BEST WITH POLAND AND HUNGARY,
WHILE THOSE WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE EASTERN BLOCK
DO NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS OF FORMALITY.
END TEXT. BENNETT UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, TEXT, REPORTS, LABOR UNIONS, EAST WEST MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE240370
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR:DGOTT:RLR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770364-1211
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771086/aaaacvpl.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d57ce634-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NATO BRUSSELS 4194, 77 STATE 183909
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1008745
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG REPORT ON EAST-WEST LABOR EXCHANGES
TAGS: ELAB, GE, NATO
To: NATO POSTS BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d57ce634-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009